United Nations A/HRC/WG.6/19/PRK/1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 January 2014

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Nineteenth session
28 April–9 May 2014

National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21*

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

* The present document has been reproduced as received. Its content does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

GE.14-10658
1410658

Please recycle

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–4	3
II.	Main contents and preparation process of the report	5–7	3
III.	Legislative and institutional measures for the protection and promotion of human rights	8–29	3
	A. Legislative measures	8–22	3
	1. Human rights legislation	8–16	3
	2. Accession to international treaties	17–19	4
	3. Human rights education	20–22	5
	B. Institutional measures	23–29	5
IV.	Achievements in protecting and promoting human rights	30–124	6
	A. Civil and political rights	30–45	6
	1. The right to life and liberty	30–34	6
	2. Independence of court	35–37	6
	3. The right to fair trial	38–40	6
	4. The right to submit complaints and petition, freedom of expression	41–45	7
	B. Economic, social and cultural rights	46–75	7
	1. The right to health care	47–56	8
	2. The right to education	57–64	9
	3. The right to housing	65–67	10
	4. The right to cultural life	68–70	10
	5. The right to food	71–75	10
	C. Rights of special groups	76–114	11
	1. Child rights	76–85	11
	2. Women's rights	86–95	12
	3. The right of older persons	96–104	13
	4. The right of persons with disabilities	105–114	13
	D. Education in law observance	115-118	14
	E. International cooperation in the field of human rights	119–124	15
V.	Challenges and future goals	125–131	16
	A. Obstacles and challenges	125–126	16
	B. Future goals	127–131	16
VI.	Conclusions	132	16
	Annex I		17
	Annex II		18

I. Introduction

1. The present report covers the period from December 2009 when the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) had its first cycle UPR report reviewed to 2013.

2. During this period the Korean people suffered the greatest national grief over the sudden demise of the great leader **Kim Jong Il**. However, holding the respected Marshal **Kim Jong Un** in high esteem as the supreme leader of the DPRK and under his seasoned leadership, they have opened up a new era of history in their efforts to build a socialist thriving nation that effectively ensures people's happy well-being and genuine human rights.

3. The DPRK regards it as the supreme principle of its activities to put human person at the centre of all considerations and make everything serve him. The DPRK has consistently maintained the people-centred ideas and position on human rights that fully guarantee people's dignity, equality and worthwhile life, and made every possible effort to ensure that all people fully exercise and enjoy their political, economic and cultural rights as the masters of the State and society.

4. The recommendations received during the first cycle review were given careful and serious consideration from the standpoint of honouring international human rights instruments and taking into account country's specific conditions, with due attention being paid to taking necessary measures.

II. Main contents and preparation process of the report

5. The Report describes the efforts and achievements made by the DPRK during the past 4 years for the protection and promotion of human rights, and challenges and future goals.

6. A task force was formed for the preparation of the Report comprising officials from the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly, the Supreme Court, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Education Commission, Ministry of Public Health and other government organs related to the implementation of the recommendations, and experts from academic institutions. The national institutions concerned were informed of General Guidelines for the Preparation of Information and invited to submit necessary information on the basis thereof. (See Annex I)

7. The task force held numerous discussions and consultations not only with government organs but also with individuals working for the human rights-related social organizations, academic and legal institutions and reflected their inputs in the Report before finalizing it. (See Annex II)

III. Legislative and institutional measures for the protection and promotion of human rights

A. Legislative measures

1. Human rights legislation

8. During the period under review, a series of laws were adopted for human rights protection and promotion, which is unprecedented in the country's legislation.

9. The Ordinance on the Enforcement of Universal 12-year Compulsory Education was promulgated at the 6th session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly on September 25, 2012, to replace the 11-year education system that had been in force. The particulars of change resulting from the enforcement of the new education system were legalized through the amending of the Constitution and other education-related laws and regulations. This new system enabled further improvement of general secondary education through teaching students general basic knowledge and modern basic technical knowledge.

10. The Law on the Protection and Promotion of Child Rights and the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Women's Rights were enacted on December 22, 2012, and together with the Law on the Care of the Elderly and the Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities they reinforced legal framework for the protection of vulnerable group.

11. The Law on the Protection and Promotion of Child Rights comprehensively provides for such matters as principle in the protection and promotion of child rights, their rights in social life, medical care, education, family and judicial matters as well as obligations of the government organs concerned.

12. The Law on the Protection and Promotion of Women's Rights comprehensively provides for the matters of principle in the protection and promotion of women's rights, their rights to social and political life, education, health care, work, personal inviolability and property, marriage and family, as well as matters related to guidance to and supervision over the protection of women's rights.

13. The Law on Labour Protection enacted on July 8, 2010 stipulates matters of education on labour safety, provision of protective measures, emergency rescue and relief, labour accident examination and obligations of government organs concerned, thereby securing legal guarantee for providing working people with safe, hygienic working conditions and protecting and promoting their lives and health.

14. The Law on General Secondary Education (January 19, 2011), the Law on Higher Education (December 24, 2011), the Law on Prevention of Earthquake and Volcano Disasters and Rescue Operations (August 29, 2011), the Law on City and Township Beautification (December 19, 2012) and the Law on Maintenance of Parks and Pleasure Grounds (May 19, 2013) were adopted, further enhancing legal guarantee for the protection and promotion of human rights.

15. The Criminal Law was amended on October 1, 2010, under which the ratio of penalty of reform through labour was reduced and that of penalty of disciplining through labour raised, while the term of both penalties shortened by and large.

16. The Law on Public Health, the Copyright Law, the Law on Foodstuff Hygiene, the Law on Dwelling Houses and the Law on Complaints and Petition were amended to further concretize the legal framework for the protection and promotion of human rights.

2. Accession to international treaties

17. The DPRK signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on July 3, 2013. As a follow-up, the Law of the DPRK for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities and other relevant laws were amended to incorporate the requirements of the Convention, and preparatory work is now under way for the ratification.

18. The DPRK ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism on June 19, 2013. Relevant national laws including the Law of the DPRK on the Prevention of Money Laundering are now in the process of revision with some practical measures being taken pursuant to the obligations under the Convention.

19. Signing of or accession to other international human rights instruments including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography is under consideration by the institutions concerned.

3. Human rights education

20. The DPRK, while providing human rights education at formal educational institutions and judicial officers' training centers, directed special attention to raising general public awareness of human rights, conducting education in various forms and manner appropriate to the level of different targets.

21. Talks of renowned human rights scholars were broadcasted by television and Understanding of International Human Rights Law and other books on human rights were published and distributed to help citizens have a broad range of knowledge about the nature of human rights, key international human rights instruments and mechanisms.

22. On such occasions as Human Rights Day, International Women's Day, International Children's Day and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, etc. the mass media gave wide publicity to the contents, principles and requirements of the international human rights instruments to which the DPRK is a party.

B. Institutional measures

23. Institutional measures were taken for the protection and promotion of human rights during the period under review.

24. By the decision of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly in June, 2010 the Ministry of Education was restructured to be Education Commission comprising Ministries of Higher Education and General Secondary Education with a view to further qualitative improvement of education and providing more effective guidance to the educational work as required by the new developments.

25. In December, 2012 by the decision of the Cabinet the State Guidance Organ of Disaster Prevention was organized as a standing body, and departments or posts exclusively dealing with disaster prevention were set up within Ministries of Agriculture, City Management, Land and Environmental Conservation, Railway and Forestry, and related national institutions and municipal and county people's committees, thereby establishing a unified guidance system of the Organ in this area.

26. November 16 was instituted as Mother's Day in high appreciation of women's contribution to the development of society and the wellbeing of families and with a view to further encouraging them to creditably fulfill their duty and mission before the society and the families.

27. The Central Court and the Central Public Prosecutors Office were renamed respectively the Supreme Court and the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office through the amending of the Constitution in April, 2010, to represent more clearly their power of final decision on the case at hand and the highest power in ensuring observance of the State laws and regulations.

28. People's Courts were set up in every municipality (or district) and county to replace the former regional People's Courts that had jurisdiction over several municipalities (or districts) and counties, thereby ensuring full exercise by citizens of their constitutional rights and improving conditions for law enforcement and legal consultations.

29. Necessary institutional measures were also taken to further enhance the role of the people's power organs as they have it as their main functions to promote human rights in the economic, social and cultural fields, so that people can better benefit from socialist measures in such fields as education, health care, urban management and housing. Officials of people's power organs were required to regard as their motto the slogan "Everything for people and everything by relying on them!"

IV. Achievements in protecting and promoting human rights

A. Civil and political rights

1. The right to life and liberty

30. In the DPRK death penalty is applied to extremely restricted cases. In the case of a crime that harmed a person's life, for instance, death penalty is not imposed unless it is, though intentional, an extremely heinous and grave act.

31. Death sentence was not imposed for a crime committed by a person below eighteen years of age and was not carried out on a pregnant woman as provided in article 29 of the Criminal Law.

32. General amnesties were granted to convicted persons by the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly in January 2012. The Cabinet and people's committees at all levels took every necessary measure to provide jobs, residence, etc, to those released so that they could resume their normal life without any inconveniences.

33. Many of those who committed serious crimes had their term of penalty commuted under the Criminal Law amended in 2010. The new measure proved very effective in helping them repent of their crimes more sincerely and work harder for the society and collective.

34. In accordance with articles 5 and 41 of the Criminal Law, law enforcement organs strictly abided by the principle of showing leniency to and forgiving an offender in case he/she repented of his/her crime and surrendered him/herself voluntarily.

2. Independence of court

35. Measures were taken to ensure the independence of the court, essential for impartially settling cases, in accordance with article 166 of the Constitution and article 271 of the Criminal Procedure Law.

36. The Supreme Court issued several directives to the effect that no institution including a higher-level court shall violate the independence of a tribunal set up for the settling of a case at hand by giving directions foretelling the outcome of a trial, and that court decisions and awards shall not have legal effect unless the independence of a given tribunal is ensured.

37. The tribunal set up in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Law and the Law on Organization of Courts was obligated to be fully responsible before the law for the judgment of a criminal case.

3. The right to fair trial

38. Comprehensiveness, scientific accuracy, objectiveness, prudence and impartiality, and full protection of human rights in the handling of criminal cases were ensured in accordance with articles 5 and 7 of the Criminal Procedure Law.

39. The Criminal Procedure Law was amended in October 2011, providing for, in article 171, the attendance of a judicial clerk and, if necessary, an observer to an interrogation and the audio-video recordings of interrogation and trial process, thereby ensuring fairness, objectivity and scientific accuracy of a trial.

40. Defence councils played an important role in ensuring fair trial. They carried out their mission in such a way that the rights of an accused under the Criminal Procedure Law were fully ensured, the truth of a given case disclosed beyond doubt, analyzed and concluded by the tribunal. Should an innocent person be given a verdict of guilty or imposed punishment be too heavy for the gravity of committed offence, they helped the accused make an appeal for rejudgment of the case. In case they learned about any violations of human rights or abuse of power by law enforcement officials in the process of handling cases, defence councils brought the matter to the attention of the court for relevant measures.

4. The right to submit complaints and petition, freedom of expression

41. Citizens' rights to submit complaints and petition were effectively ensured under article 69 of the Constitution and the Law on Complaints and Petition amended in 2010. The complaints-handling machinery established at all institutions, enterprises and organizations from the central level down to the grassroots was further reinforced and regularly operated. Central, provincial, municipal and county-level institutions dealt with the received complaints on the Day of Complaints Consideration once a month and other institutions in a concentrated manner at the consultative meetings of senior officials.

42. Special attention was directed to complaints concerning the method and style of work of law enforcement officials. Complaints and petitions concerning their infringement of citizens' rights were rigorously dealt with and punished at the law enforcement organs at all levels, thus raising citizens' trust in the latter.

43. State institutions at all levels examined and settled the complaints and petitions within the prescribed period of time in the interests of people and with a spirit of serving the people in good faith, while taking measures to prevent the officials from abuse of power and bureaucratic practices and improve their work method and style.

44. Citizens' freedom of expression and press were effectively guaranteed and protected by the Constitution, Copyright Law, Science and Technology Law and Computer Software Protection Law. Citizens expressed their views on various social and political issues through mass media and forums, and participate in annually-held national or regional exhibition of scientific and technical achievements, software contests, prize contests of literature and art works and audio-visual performances to present their creative works and have them protected. Children as well as adults also created literature and art works and had them published in periodicals or Collection of Children's Works.

45. Citizens' rights to access to information were ensured by the Telecommunications Law, Electronic Authentication Law and Computer Network Management Law enacted during 2011 and 2012, which legalized the obligations of the State, institutions, enterprises and organizations for the ensuring and protecting of such rights. Remarkable progress was made in informatizing all branches of national economy and social life, and improving the information service and expanding its coverage.

B. Economic, social and cultural rights

46. It is the goal of the Government of the DPRK to turn the country in the near future into a knowledge-based economic power by dint of advanced science and technology and

the devoted efforts of the people to make it a reality brought about remarkable achievements in the protection and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights.

1. The right to health care

47. The Government, while invariably practicing the complete and universal free medical care, endeavoured to put in place material and technical foundations to enable all people throughout the country receive good quality health service on time whenever necessary.

48. In order to reach the world level in major health indicators like life expectancy, births attended by skilled health workers, infant mortality rate, communicable diseases prevention rate, Country Strategy for Health (2011–2015), Strategy for Drug Management, Program for Control of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Reproductive Health Strategy and other sector-specific programs were formulated.

49. One of the greatest achievements in the field of public health during the past 4 years was that many of health centres and production bases of drugs and medical appliances across the country were modernized, thus creating conditions for the free medical care system and other popular health policies to further contribute to promoting people's health.

50. State budgetary expenditure on public health increased systematically, with the result that expenditure in the fiscal year 2013 increased by 105.4% compared to the previous year.

51. The Government also took measures for the modernization of pharmaceutical factories, normalization of drug production, scientification and industrialization of the production of traditional Koryo medicine and effective use of mineral springs and spas so that people can better benefit from free medical care system.

52. Hi-tech telemedicine service was introduced throughout the country in 2012, with the scope of its application being further expanded. Telemedicine service system was established linking the general hospitals and maternity hospital in the capital city with provincial and maternity hospitals and 200-odd county hospitals, by means of which consultations, lectures and directions for operation were provided. In particular, the nationwide introduction of telementoring in 2013 to meet domestic requirements made it possible for skilled surgeons at the higher-level hospitals to monitor and provide directions for operations at the lower-levels.

53. World-class Okryu Children's Hospital, Ryugyong Dental Hospital, Munsu Recovery Center, General Dental Hospital and other modern medical centres were built. Vaccine factories, Pyongyang Municipal Hospital No.2, Korean Red Cross Hospital and Pyongyang Maternity Hospital were rebuilt or renovated. Production processes at pharmaceutical and medical appliances factories in the capital city and provinces were modernized, with the result that in 2013 production figures in this field reached those in the peak production year.

54. The Disease-Free Village Campaign was launched actively, so that hygienic and cultured environment was created throughout the country, information about cleanliness and hygiene widely disseminated, vaccination carried out on a routine basis and efforts to promote healthy life style undertaken, which, in turn, resulted in considerable decrease of disease outbreak rate. Top priority given to child vaccination, the coverage of measles, HB, polio, BCG and DPT3 reached very high level.

55. The efforts of the Government to supply clean and safe drinking water to people have seen good results. Projects to make quality spring water available to all population were carried out and researches to use seawater for the sterilization of drinking water completed. In May 2013 indigenous high-tech water sterilizers were installed in all

reservoirs, making it possible for all the households, catering establishments and cultural centres to use quality water. Currently, proportion of population using improved drinking-water sources is 99.9% and those using improved sanitation 83.2%.

56. Life expectancy increased from 68 in early 2000 to 70.3 in 2010, and mortality rate decreased from 8.8 per thousand in 2000 to 8.5 in 2010. In January 2011, the World Health Organization noted in one of its reports that significant improvement was made in public health and primary medical care of the DPRK through its comprehensive and vibrant district doctor system, including considerable improvement in maternal and child health, and increased vaccination coverage.

2. The right to education

57. During the period under review, the Government took numerous measures to improve the quality of education, make education available and accessible to all and develop healthy and civilized socialist culture. State budgetary expenditure on education in the fiscal year 2013 increased by 106.8% as against the previous year.

58. The Ministry of General Secondary Education under the Education Commission, in accordance with the Cabinet decision for the implementation of the Ordinance of the Supreme People's Assembly on the Enforcement of Universal 12-year Compulsory Education, adopted practical measures for the introduction of new curricula and provision of required human and material resources. As of November 2013, preparatory work for operating a new education system was nearly completed.

59. Education For All National Action Plan by 2015 was formulated to put into effect the ideas and target of Jomtien Declaration and the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, and accordingly, progress was made in the improvement of the quality of education, modernization of educational equipment and improvement of educational environment.

60. Students of the DPRK proved successful in many of international contests, taking the first place in the national students' academic contests held in Romania in 2012 and 2013, winning gold and silver medals in the 54th International Math Olympiad held in Columbia in 2013 and taking first prize and special prize in the 20th International Juvenile Chopin Piano Contest held in Poland in 2012. All these serve as eloquent testimonies to the efforts made by the Government for the development of education.

61. E-libraries with a database of a large volume and high-tech information system were set up at **Kim Il Sung** University and many others, providing excellent conditions for educational researches and international scientific discussions and exchange.

62. A new TV channel for education launched in 2012 gave students great help in their studies through the televising of educational achievements at different universities, results of national software contests and exhibitions, lectures of renowned professors and latest news in science and technology.

63. Tele-education system for the working people across the country was set up at the Grand People's Study House, which makes it possible for scientists, technicians, officials and students to have, through the libraries and scientific and educational establishments in their localities, immediate access to the latest scientific and technical information helpful to solving problems arising in their practical activities.

64. The existing school support system was further reinforced, under which all institutions, enterprises and organizations were actively involved in providing schools under their charge with better educational conditions and stronger material and technical foundations, particularly in March and October, the months for school support.

3. The right to housing

65. The Government continued to implement the policy of building dwelling houses at the State expense and providing them to people free of charge.

66. A plan to finish construction of 100,000 housing units in the near future was formulated to provide people with more civilized living conditions. According to this plan a lot of modern houses were built in the capital city of Pyongyang in recent years and provided to people free of charge. They are, for instance, 3,000 flats of high-rise apartments built in the centre of capital city during 2011 and 2012, 300 flats with excellent living conditions for teachers and researchers of **Kim Il Sung** University, 1,100 units for scientists, 500 units for artists and 8,000 renovated units during 2010–2013.

67. Thousands of housing units were newly built or renovated in provinces, municipalities and counties, thus providing conditions for people to enjoy a more civilized and happy life. For instance, 400 housing units were built and 800 renovated in Changsong County, a mountainous region. Besides, many dwelling houses, schools and kindergartens were newly built on small and large islands on the West Sea.

4. The right to cultural life

68. The Government, having set an ambitious goal of building a civilized socialist nation, made great efforts to provide people with a more cultured and happy life. Places of recreation and relaxation and centers for cultural and leisure activities were set up in different parts of the country, creating conditions for people to relax and enjoy in a more diverse way.

69. Munsu Water Park, Rungna People's Pleasure Ground, Mirim Riding Club and many others were built in Pyongyang during 2012 and 2013 and in particular, Pyongyang Folklore Park where one can see monuments and relics related to 5,000-year-long Korean history and experience folk customs in a matter of a few hours. Considerable increase of people's interest in physical culture and sports and a significant improvement in sports technique of the country were noticeable with the appearance of peculiar-style community sports parks, indoor stadiums and roller skating grounds in different parts of the country, and in particular, Masikryong Ski Resort, another world-class monumental project aimed at providing more civilized life for people.

70. Every year people from all walks of life including youth and children enjoyed socialist benefits to their hearts' content, relaxing at resorts and camps at famous mountains, scenic spots, spas and seaside.

5. The right to food

71. The Government, while concentrating nationwide efforts on farming for addressing food shortages, took measures to further motivate farmers by improving methods of agricultural management such as evaluation of production output, distribution method and others.

72. Tideland reclamation was undertaken on an extensive scale, with the result that tens of thousands of hectares in the west coast including Taegye, Kwaksan and Ryongmae tidelands were converted into cultivable land. Introduction of double cropping made it possible to use the land more rationally and increase grain output.

73. Though affected by floods and typhoon, agricultural output increased year after year thanks to the nationwide efforts concentrated on farming including introduction of new agricultural science and technology, timely supply of farming materials and tools, resulted in improvement of food supply to people. Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission

conducted jointly by the FAO and WFP valued the 2013 estimate crop output at over 5,664,000MT, much increase as against 2012.

74. Decisive measures for bolstering up livestock, fish and fruit farming were taken to satisfy increasing needs of people for better diet. Nationwide efforts are being made to create livestock base of about 50,000 hectare on the Sepho Plateau in Kangwon Province by 2015. Modern pig and chicken farms, and stock breeding farms were built in many areas of the country, fishing boats newly equipped, deep-sea fishing reactivated, and quality products turned out at breeding grounds and fish farms. 1,000-hectare Taedonggang Fruit Farm and Taedonggang Combined Fruit Processing Factory were set up in Pyongyang, 3,000-hectare Fruit Farm in Kosan, Kangwon Province and existing ones modernized, resulting in increased fruit output and improved diet of people.

75. Production capacity of foodstuff industry increased threefold as a result of overall technical renovation undertaken at about 400 local industrial factories including essential foodstuff factories, cornstarch factories and foodstuff processing factories.

C. Rights of special groups

1. Child rights

76. The Government, putting forward children as future masters of the country, regards it an important part of its work to create all conditions for them to grow up and live healthily under clean and culturally developed environment.

77. From 1976 when the Law on Nursing and Upbringing of Children was adopted to 2010, laws concerning the protection of child rights, namely, Family Law, Public Health Law, Education Law, General Secondary Education Law and Law on Protection and Promotion of Child Rights were adopted, thus securing firm legal guarantees for the effective promotion of child rights on the principle of best interests of the child.

78. Modernly-equipped Okryu Children's Hospital was built in Pyongyang in 2013, provincial children's hospitals renovated on modern lines and first-aid, vaccination and other medical service for children improved in quality.

79. For the promotion of health and nutrition of children and students soybean milk production bases were set up not only in cities but also in the countryside, and people's committees concerned assumed direct responsibility for the whole process from the supply of raw and other materials to the production and transport of the milk.

80. Children's nutritional condition improved significantly. Infant and under-5 mortality rate in 2010 were 16.7 and 22.7 per 1,000 live births respectively, a 50% decrease as against the late 1990s. Under-5 chronic malnutrition rate in 2012 stood at 27.9%, an improvement as against 32.3% in 2009.

81. In the light of the requirements of the era of knowledge-based economy and the world educational development trends universal 12-year compulsory education system was introduced as part of the efforts to attain the education-related Millennium Development Goals on higher level, thereby creating conditions for children to acquire comprehensive knowledge.

82. Branch schools were set up, trains, buses or boats provided for students in remote mountainous villages and islets, and school materials and fixtures supplied to them so that they could have equal schooling with urban children.

83. In order to help students develop intellectually, morally and physically, students' halls and extracurricular sports schools in the capital city and localities were extensively refurbished, where students conducted diverse cultural and sports activities after school.

Children's Union Camps were also renovated in a modern style, providing better conditions for children to fully enjoy themselves at scenic spots across the country.

84. As the State took it upon itself to look after children without parents, they were taken good care of at the State expense. Clothes were provided to them twice a year and school materials and nutritive foods regularly. In 2013 vehicles were provided to their schools for use in the management and supply service.

85. In April 2012 school uniforms were given to millions of students at primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities at a very low price subsidized by the State.

2. Women's rights

86. With the adoption in 2010 of the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Women's Rights public awareness of women's rights was further raised and social atmosphere of respecting them and providing sufficient conditions for their work and life established.

87. In accordance with the State measure taken in December, 2010 to encourage women to take a more active part in public life, efforts were made to motivate the advance of women in political and social life and provide them with necessary conditions, with the result that a lot of former housewives with college or university degrees volunteered to work for the society.

88. There are, in the State policies, laws and regulations, provisions favoring women's interests over men's but no discriminatory provisions whatsoever, and all women are enjoying equal rights with men in political, economic and cultural matters, as well as in family.

89. On the occasion of the first Mother's Day in the DPRK, the 4th National Mothers' Meeting was held on November 16, 2012, at which State commendations were awarded to women who gave birth to several children and brought them up creditably, those who took care of parentless children, model workers and those who did a lot for the society and collective.

90. On Mother's Day art performances and amusements were arranged, special services provided to women at public catering establishments and other diverse functions organized, thus fostering social atmosphere of treating women considerately.

91. The Government directed special attention to the maternal health and took a series of measures in that regard.

92. In accordance with article 66 of the Labour Law, working women are entitled, in addition to regular and additional holidays, to 60- and 90-day leave before and after childbirth irrespective of their term of service. At central and provincial maternity hospitals women receive free treatment not only for childbirth but for health care before and after delivery. For instance, during the past 30 years since the opening of Pyongyang Maternity Hospital over 6,730,000 women benefited from treatment by use of modern medical appliances and tonics of all varieties, and 710,000 babies were born including more than 400 triplets and quadruplets. The number of foreign women who received free medical care or had childbirth at this hospital in the same period totals over 7,000.

93. In 2010, proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel reached 97.3% and percentage of contraception 70.6% thanks to the responsible care of women before and after childbirth by polyclinics and *ri*-people's hospitals and a high level of family planning provided by them.

94. In 2012, Breast Tumor Institute was set up under Pyongyang Maternity Hospital for the purpose of preventing, treating and conducting scientific research of breast tumor and related diseases, thus making it possible for women to enjoy more fully the benefits of

socialist health care system. A well-organized system has been established for the early identifying of breast tumor and currently, examination and treatment of all women across the country are being conducted at regular intervals.

95. Women's health recorded significant improvement, which is evidenced by the decrease of maternal mortality rate of 105 per 100,000 live births in 1997 to 68.1 in 2012, paving the way for achieving one of the MDGs to reduce by three quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth by 2015.

3. The right of older persons

96. As in other countries, the early 2000s saw a sharp increase of aging population in the DPRK and around 2010 the percentage of older persons over 60 years of age reached more than 10% of the population, surpassing the world aging level. Such challenge led the DPRK Government to take numerous social, economic, health and medical measures for the aging population.

97. The Law on the Protection of the Elderly adopted in April 2007 was amended on two occasions, thus securing legal guarantee for providing them with better living conditions.

98. The Korean Association for Helping the Aged founded in 2003 was reorganized to be the Korean Federation for the Care of the Aged in 2006 with the authority to provide unified guidance and control of the domestic efforts in this area.

99. With a view to keeping pace with the Madrid Program of International Action for Older Persons and other world movement for the solution of the aging problem and to invigorating domestic efforts on a planned basis, this Federation formulated the Strategy of the Korean Federation for the Care of the Aged (2010-2014), which is under implementation.

100 In August 2010 Korean Elderly Care Fund was set up to further invigorate the efforts for the protection of the older persons.

101. In accordance with the articles 17 and 19 of the Social Security Law the older people are provided with old-age pensions and subsidies commensurate with their term of service and performance, along with preferential medical service.

102. Under the district doctor system, doctors in charge provide primary medical service to older persons, while specialized treatment is provided at the geriatrics departments of provincial hospitals and geriatrics clinic under the Korean Red Cross General Hospital. The geriatrics institute is working on gerontology and health care.

103. Beautiful traits of caring for old people as their own parents are displayed by many citizens, and a lot of old people with no one to depend on are spending their remaining years in comfort with their relatives, neighbours or friends.

104. On International Day of Older Persons every year people visit old people's families and homes to give them material and moral support and the institutions concerned arrange diverse cultural events for them, thus establishing social atmosphere of respecting and caring for the old people.

4. The right of persons with disabilities

105. At present persons with disabilities account for 5.8% of the population, of whom those with hearing impairments make up more than 10%.

106. The DPRK, after signing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, made consistent efforts in accordance with its Law on the Protection of

Persons with Disabilities for the safeguarding of their rights and interests, rehabilitation of their health and provision of conditions for them to participate in public life with equal rights with normal people.

107. There has been established under the Korean Federation for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities Korean Company Supporting the Disabled (January, 2010), Korean Sports Association of Persons with Disabilities (August, 2010), Korean Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities (March, 2012) and Korean Arts Association of Persons with Disabilities (December, 2012), thereby creating better conditions for the protection of persons with disabilities.

108. A lot of persons with disabilities were provided with prosthetic devices and tens of thousands of persons with cataracts given successful treatment, thus preventing them from loss of eyesight.

109. The Korean Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities is focusing on the early detection of disabilities and early recovery among children aged between 3 and 8, as well as their comprehensive education on a pilot basis. Achievements were also made in improving educational amenities and living conditions of special schools for children with disabilities and updating the contents of vocational education.

110. With a view to raising public interest in the art of persons with disabilities and creating at home and abroad favourable conditions and environment for further improving it, new works of dance and jugglery were created and put on stage on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

111. Starting in 2010 on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities national table-tennis games of persons with disabilities and amateurs were held amid great interest of people and fans under the sponsorship of the Korean Sports Society of Persons with Disabilities. Professional swimmers, archers, shooters and athletes are being trained in cooperation with sports institutions to prepare for competing in the International Paralympics.

112. Participation of a DPRK swimmer in the 14th Paralympics in 2012 served as an important occasion in drawing world attention to the DPRK's efforts for the protection of persons with disabilities. The DPRK table-tennis players and swimmers won 4 silver and 1 bronze medals at the 3rd Asian Youth Paralympics held in Malaysia in 2013.

113. The vocational school for persons with disabilities set up in May 2012 gave them technical training so that they could get jobs in different categories of labour.

114. The Korean Federation for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities is, on the basis of the mid-term plan (2012–2015) for further improvement of its work, undertaking preparatory work for raising the level of vocational training, provision of decent working and living conditions and comprehensive education for children. Efforts are also being made to remove communication barriers, encourage sports and art activities and establish association of dumb and deaf persons and of women with disabilities.

D. Education in law observance

115. Great emphasis was placed on education of citizens in law observance. The system of law observance education established from the central level down to the grassroots institutions, enterprises, organizations, *dong* and neighbourhood units proved instrumental to enabling citizens to be well aware of and exercise the full range of their rights provided in the Constitution and other laws, to respect other persons' rights and to faithfully fulfill their obligations under the laws.

116. The Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly sent a quarterly plan for law observance education to the provincial, municipal and county people's committees, on the basis of which institutions, enterprises and organizations worked out their monthly and weekly plans. Persons with due qualifications and good records of law observance were chosen from among the employees to conduct the education regularly and effectively.

117. Judicial, prosecutorial and people's security organs were actively involved in education in law observance. Officials regularly met with the employees of the institutions, enterprises and organizations, and residents in the areas under their jurisdiction to provide explanations of laws and first-hand information of good observance or violations of laws by citizens.

118. Model Law Observance Unit Movement for the purpose of stimulating units to be free of crimes and illegal acts produced 50 to 70 units winning the honour annually. This Movement proved very effective in encouraging institutions, enterprises and organizations to intensify law observance education among their employees and thus increase their obedience to law and prevent violations thereof.

E. International cooperation in the field of human rights

119. The DPRK continues to hold its position to reject the politicization, selectivity and double standards in the international field of human rights and remains committed to promoting sincere dialogue and cooperation based on the principle of impartiality and objectivity.

120. Proceeding from this stand the DPRK paid close attention, during the past 4 years, to the international cooperation in the field of human rights and made efforts for its realization. In particular, it responded in a sincere and open-minded manner to the questions raised by human rights bodies under UN system including the UNOHCHR and treaty bodies, and issues by human rights-related NGOs. Cooperation was provided to the fullest possible extent by clarifying DPRK's principled stand and to clear any doubts in respect of human rights during the visits of several foreign delegations including the EU.

121. The annual adoption of the anti-DPRK "resolutions" in the UN human rights arena since 2003 and the subsequent appointment of "special rapporteur" and setup of "commission of inquiry" are the products of politically-motivated confrontation and conspiracy on the part of the United States and its followers aiming at overthrowing, under the pretext of human rights protection, the sovereign State and a social system of its people's own choice. The DPRK has consistently and totally rejected the anti-DPRK conspiracy and plot, which have nothing to do with genuine human rights protection, and this stand will remain unchanged.

122. Human rights are guaranteed by each and every sovereign state. Accordingly, human rights mean state sovereignty. Any attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign state and overthrow its social system under the pretext of protection of human rights constitute acts against humanity and acts of violating of human rights and, therefore, should be rejected.

123. Politically-motivated confrontation in the field of human rights is incompatible with genuine human rights dialogue and cooperation. Any tolerance of such confrontation will lead to distrust, antagonism and enmity among countries and the ongoing efforts of the international community for the protection and promotion of genuine human rights will come to nothing.

124. As it has faithfully fulfilled its obligations under the international human rights instruments to which it is a party, the DPRK will make every possible endeavour to oppose

high-handed and arbitrary practices and promote genuine human rights dialogue and cooperation in the international field of human rights.

V. Challenges and future goals

A. Obstacles and challenges

125. The persevering efforts of the DPRK for the protection and promotion of human rights continue to face serious challenges and obstacles. The nearly 70-year long national division forced by foreign forces in the last century, hostile policy towards the DPRK pursued by the United States since the early days of the founding of the former, attempts by the United States and other hostile forces to stifle the DPRK and harsh economic sanctions against it; all these constitute the most serious challenges and obstacles to the its independent and peaceful development as well as the enjoyment of human rights by Korean people.

126. In particular, the US non-recognition of the DPRK and its sanctions, pressures and military threat applied to it under all sorts of pretexts for the last half a century constitute the most grave acts against humanity and a serious violation of human rights, constantly threatening and encroaching upon the Korean people's right to life and peaceful living.

B. Future goals

127. The DPRK will further accelerate the building of an economic power and a socialist civilized country by taking positive and innovative measures so that people can enjoy a better and more civilized life.

128. The DPRK will hold fast to people-centred, socialist policy on protection and promotion of human rights and further perfect the legal and institutional framework for the people to fully enjoy their rights to political freedoms and rights, work and subsistence, education and health care and other rights that social beings are entitled to, thereby ensuring within the maximum extent possible their legitimate rights and interests.

129. The DPRK will continue to take positive and practical measures for invigorating the country's economy as a whole, thereby making a turning point in the economic construction and improvement of people's living.

130. The DPRK will make every possible effort to protect its people's lives and well-being from the moves and military threat of the hostile forces, the impediments to the protection and promotion and enjoyment of human rights.

131. The DPRK will continue to faithfully implement the international human rights instruments to which it is a party, achieve the MDGs and do everything in its power to make the principle of impartiality and objectivity in the international field of human rights a reality.

VI. Conclusions

132. The DPRK, a socialist State guided by the people-centred Juche idea in its activities, will, on the principle of giving top priority to ensuring interests and convenience of people, make persevering efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights and bring earlier a thriving country where people will enjoy a better life and prosperity.

Annex I

Typical national institutions participated in the preparation of national report for UPR-2.

1) Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly
2) Secretariat of the Cabinet
3) Supreme Court
4) Supreme Public Prosecutors Office
5) Ministry of People's Security
6) State Planning Commission
7) Education Commission
8) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9) Ministry of Finance
10) Ministry of Public Health
11) Ministry of Agriculture
12) Ministry of Labour
13) Ministry of Culture
14) Ministry of Land and Environment Protection
15) Ministry of Construction Supervision
16) Ministry of City Management
17) Central Statistics Bureau

Annex II

Social organizations, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations participated in the consultations for the preparation of national report for UPR-2.

1) Central Committee of the Korean Trade Union
2) Central Committee of the Korean Agricultural Workers' Union
3) Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union
4) Central Committee of **Kim Il Sung** Socialist Youth League
5) Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society
6) Central Committee of Korean Journalists' Union
7) Central Committee of Korean Federation for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities
8) Korean Medical Association
9) Korean Human Rights Institute
10) Central Committee of the Korean Bar Association
11) Korean Democratic Lawyers' Association
12) Korean Association for Family Planning and Maternal and Infant Health
13) Korea Education Fund
14) Law College of the **Kim Il Sung** University
15) University of National Economy
16) Law Institute of Academy of Social Sciences